GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:3
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2016
Trade Facilitation Agreement of WTO
Arunmozhithevan Shri A.;Venugopal Dr. Ponnusamy;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has recently ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Committee on Trade Facilitation to domestically coordinate and implement WTO"s Trade Facilitation Agreement which aims at easing customs norms to expedite global trade flows and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ratification of TFA is likely to help in sharing world"s best trade practices among the member countries and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether TFA is likely to cut costs of trade and the impact is likely to be greater than elimination of all remaining tariffs and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

a) to d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 3 FOR ANSWER ON 18TH JULY, 2016 REGARDING "TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT OF WTO"

(a) India ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) on goods on 22nd April, 2016;

(b) Yes Sir, The Cabinet has already approved the constitution of National Committee on Trade Facilitation under the Chair of Cabinet Secretary. This Committee will facilitate the ease of doing trade, through effective cooperation between customs authorities and relevant stakeholders.

(c) & (d): Through TFA, WTO Members are encouraged to share information on best practices in managing customs compliance. Trade Facilitation Agreement will lead to simplification of trade procedures and help promote cross-border trade, bring greater predictability to traders and reduce transaction costs.
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